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Addressing the Proposed Question
Based on your experience, what are some examples of effective development strategies to address middle-income countries' sustainable development barriers, particularly in relation with women and girls?

Sustainable development framework is providing opportunities that could and still can assist in addressing hard challenges for countries in MICs.
**Let me focus on the following opportunities**
  1. Policy coherence approach
  2. Human rights based approach
  3. Development effectiveness approach
  4. Leave no one behind approach
  5. SDG №5 New opportunities

If applied **these approaches will lead to** more and faster increase of income, more power to States, more democracy, less accountability burden, in other words, it will lead to the agreed by all joint results.

**Some examples of effective development strategies**

  1. As the pace of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Asia-Pacific region <u>is slowing down at a time when acceleration is needed urgently. It means we are not effective in using resources: financial, time, human capital, ownership;</u> it is important to address this challenge and a **Strategy  to increase development effectiveness is to apply 4 Development effectiveness principles.** All stakeholders need to improve a  process on improving development effectiveness principles application: on results orientation, transparency and accountability, country ownership. Using the Development effectiveness approach is the best way to speed up progress, unite efforts and leave no one behind
  2. The  analysis showed that sustainable development work needs not only specific actions on the thematic areas, **but also a strategy to integrate very specific crosscutting and common approaches**. The SDG framework is giving such specific approaches to address gaps, which must be closed to achieve the goals by 2030 and leave no one behind.

| Policy coherence approach |
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Coherence is one of the tools for implementing the 2030 Agenda, target 17.14. It seems to be more difficult to determine how to assess it in practice. However, there are already tools available for this.

**SDG Target 17.14 (Policy coherence) is marked Grey, meaning it Cannot be measured [1]. It is one of the 57 targets that cannot be measured because of insufficient data or unclear target values.**

Attention to shift from political declaration to practical implementation

> **It is important to mention that for making policy coherent it not enough to connect various causal relations but it is quite necessary to connect actors!!! Besides the multidimensional nature of policy goals[2] it is needed to address also multistakehoders' roles with equal but differentiated responsibilities.**

**Multistakeholders partnership**
Almost all goals emphasize the role of the level of coordination of different development actors, but there is no relevant strategy to address this issue. In view of this, we propose to introduce multilateral partnership at all levels.
In multistakeholders partnership important **to ensure institutionalized participation of CSOs**.

**Linkages of political commitments with budgetary reforms.** SDGs, their targets and indicators are not taken into account in the budget process. Example, Kazakhstan recognized it in 2021 VNR

### Human rights based approach

National human rights mechanisms', international human rights mechanisms', various UN international human rights bodies' recommendations may help to facilitate more effective implementation of the SDG at various levels.
**Some recommendations from the review of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Reports**

- **Linking SDGs and Human Rights**
The interlinkages between SDGs and human rights are important but there was a little attention to this linkages in planning, monitoring of the SDG implementation in our countries.

It is right that recommendations from international human rights mechanisms help identify:
- Priority areas for national SDG action plans,
- Vulnerable groups that require additional support and
- Concrete measures to combat exclusion and discrimination[3].
For example: Mainstreaming of CEDAW recommendations

Participants of the Asia Africa Democracy Forum (AADF) recommend that this interlinkage should be promoted through Voluntary National Review (VNR) process and the human rights mechanisms, especially the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), monitoring of the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, and develop a multi-stakeholder participation mechanism similar to the UPR by including the CSO report on the UN website.

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[1] Table 1.2 Will the targets be achieved by 2030? https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/ESCAP-2022-FG_SDG-Progress-Report.pdf
2Enhance environmental policy coherence to meet the Sustainable Development Goals
 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652621007228
[3] https://www.humanrights.dk/sdg-human-rights-data-explorer

Civic space is shrinking, despite that national development planning is becoming more inclusive, but more systematic and **meaningful engagement** of diverse stakeholders throughout development processes is needed. More must be done to ensure these consultations are conducted in a way that provides the whole of society a real opportunity to shape priorities and track implementation. CSO enabling environment is one of the areas where CSOs, governments, donors, private sector need to pay more attention if we all want to speed up our travel to the sustainable development and to make contribution of all development actors effective and make their work going in one direction – toward sustainable development – and really facilitate meaningful multistakeholders partnership. It is essential that sufficient civic space is available for civil society around the world to enable it to fulfil the role envisaged for it as part of a multi-stakeholder approach to the implementation, follow up and review of the universal 2030 Agenda.

It is important to underline that Governments in several countries strengthened the space for civil society organizations for meaningful participation during the VNR preparations.

# Strategy for Development actors on CSO Enabling Environment

As 22 out of 26 countries in the region experience restrictions on their civic freedoms and attacks on civil society continue, development actors must work together to foster an enabling environment for CSOs. Furthermore, support must be given to local CSOs to implement their own development projects that are effective and rooted in their realities.

● CSOs in conflict-affected states, which continue to address the needs of the marginalised, must be assured of sufficient resources and provided with security while doing development work
● Solidarity and support must be extended to CSOs in countries where their freedoms and rights are threatened
● Retract laws and policies that limit CSOs' capacity to enact their role as development actors, including gaining access to aid and funding
● Facilitate participation of civil society organisations, community-based organisations and people's organisations in participating in SDG-related processes, such as the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and the Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs)
● Support CSOs in upholding their Action Agenda and commitment to the Istanbul Principles

## SDG №5 New opportunities

In Asia-Pacific 15 to 64 % of women experience physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner over their lifetime[4].
. SDG 5c1 indicator is a demonstration of lack of coherence between policy and budgeting.

Pledge to practice increased accountability for investments to women's rights  and gender equality by making gender budget allocations publicly available
SDG 5c1 – about 80 % of countries need to  meet commitments on this indicator.
Apply all development effectiveness principles to women's rights and gender equality agenda implementation
We have suggested and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic accepted as a next step in its VNR - introducing a course on women's rights and gender equality as a compulsory subject in the training programs for civil servants;

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[4] ESCAP 2022 SDG Progress Report